

-34-

**AUTOCAPTURE PACING/SENSING CONFIGURATION****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A cardiac electrical stimulation system that enhances the ability of the system to automatically detect whether an electrical stimulus results in heart capture or contraction.

- 5 The cardiac electrical stimulation system may be utilized, for example, as a cardiac pacemaker or as a cardioverter defibrillator. The cardiac electrical stimulation system includes an electrical stimulation circuit that attenuates polarization voltages or "afterpotential" which develop at the heart tissue/electrode interface following the delivery of a stimulus to the heart tissue, which thereby allows the stimulation electrodes to be utilized to sense an
- 10 evoked response to the electrical stimulus. The cardiac electrical stimulation system utilizes the stimulation electrodes to sense an evoked response, thereby eliminating the necessity for an indifferent electrode to sense an evoked response. The present invention allows accurate detection of an evoked response of the heart, to thereby determine whether each electrical stimulus results in capture.